EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT
ROUTING SLIP

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Remarks

STAT

Executive Secretary
14 May '87
Date

3637 (10-81)

university of washington
seattle, washington 98195

school of public health and community medicine

office of the dean, sc-30
(206) 543-1144

May 4, 1987

The Honorable Robert M. Gates
Deputy Director
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Gates:

Many thanks for your stimulating presentation and discussion at the White House Fellows Annual Alumni meeting last week.

We and all of our fellow Fellows appreciate the commitment to the program that you and other key leaders of the Administration have demonstrated by participating in this and previous annual meetings and by assuring that there are excellent placements for current Fellows each year.

We much appreciated your instructive response on questions about global and transboundary environmental risks and their importance for long-term security and diplomatic relationships. In fact, you may be interested in the enclosed report from a recent meeting of the Salzburg Seminar in American Studies on just those topics. (Report will follow.)

Best wishes.

Sincerely yours,

Gil Omenn

Gilbert S. Omenn, M.D., Ph.D.
White House Fellow '73-'74
Professor and Dean

Martha Darling

Martha A. Darling
White House Fellow '77-'78
V.P., Seattle First National Bank

GSO:lc

Enclosure

T-107-1R

Emblem: "Soul Catcher" . . . a Northwest Coast Indian implement used by shamans or spiritual healers to ward off spirits that brought physical or mental illness. These instruments were usually carved from the long bones of large animals and handed down from generation to generation.

SALZBURG SEMINAR: MANAGING ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS 22 MARCH-3 APRIL, 1987

Scientific advances and technological developments have enhanced the survival, power, health, and wealth of societies and individuals. Many of these technologies, however, can have adverse effects on the environment and on human health. Often the adverse consequences are borne by other groups or other nations than those who benefit.

Today's major environmental risks are dramatically different in space and time from those of just a decade or two ago. Then the principal risks were largely local. Today they are national, regional, or global (including climate change, species extinction, and depletion of stratospheric ozone). Earlier concerns about chemical exposures focused on immediate impacts and acute health effects; today's concerns more often involve subtle, latent health effects and environmental impacts that arise from cumulative exposures over years. Earlier problems, such as local pollution of air and water, were susceptible to local clean-up, with some spectacular and heartening successes. In contrast, current problems seem to threaten damage that is irreversible, at least on a human time scale. Taken together, these three characteristics---broad geographical scope, prospect of hidden damage that may appear only in future generations, and potential for irreversible effects---create a set of unprecedented difficulties for policymakers. These leaders in countries throughout the world must wrestle with high costs and the need for international cooperation, all in the face of daunting scientific uncertainty about the effects to be prevented.

This Seminar will introduce the scientific issues and delve into the policy implications of the new generation of environmental risks. Challenges for governments, regional groups, international agencies, the scientific community, the business community, and the public-at-large will be highlighted. Two complementary groups of topics will be covered: (1) manufacturing, marketing, and exporting of chemicals, pesticides, biologicals, drugs and energy with attendant radiation and chemical hazards; and (2) large-scale, highly-uncertain risks associated with complex industrial pollution leading to acid deposition, with fossil fuels and carbon dioxide accummulation, with deforestation and accelerating species extinction, and with climate change and depletion of stratospheric ozone. Participants will explore differences in economic, political, cultural, and diplomatic viewpoints.

TENTATIVE LIST OF LECTURE TOPICS BY SALZBURG FACULTY

OMENN

1. Framework for Identification, Characterization, and Reduction of Risks to Human Health from Environmental Chemicals

2. Prospects and Pitfalls in the Applications of Biotechnology in Medicine, Industry, Agriculture, and Pollution Control

MATHEWS

1. Shifting Risks through Space: International Cooperation or Conflicts?

2. Preserving the Resource Base: Deforestation, Desertification, Species Loss, and the Water Resource

CLARK

1. Shifting Risks through Time: Intergenerational Management of Environmental Risk

2. Managing Environmental Risks in the Face of Uncertainty: The Problem of Useable Ignorance

WHITEHEAD

1. Export of Chemical Hazards to Third World Countries: EEC Activities as an Institutional Model of Enforceable International Law

2. Public Right-to-Know and Public Participation in Decisions about Environmental Risks

GREGORY

1. How a Multinational Chemical Corporation Can Assure a High Standard of Safety for its Workers and its Communities throughout the World

2. A Case Study of the chemical bis chloro-methyl-ether

BLIX (and COLOMBO)

1. The Place of Nuclear Energy in the World's Energy Production Picture

2. Lessons for the International Community from the Accident at Chernobyl and the Responses by the Soviet Union and other Countries

07-5700

Gilbert S. Omenn, M.D., Ph.D.

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